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NUMISMA.

ED. FROSSARD, IRVINGTON, N. Y.

Editor and Proprietor.

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WANTED TO CATALOGUE, in the most attractive and accurate style, and at the most reasonable rates collections for auction sales. Address, Ed. Frossard, Numismatist, Irvington-on-Hudson, N. Y.

THE BUSHNELL SALE takes place at Bangs & Co., 739 & 741 Broadway, New York, June 20, 21, 22, 23 and 24. I will attend this sale each day, examining each piece upon which I may receive an order, and give the execution of all bids entrusted to me my individual attention, charging for my services the usual commission, and buying in each case at rates as favorable as possible. I am now prepared to give my correspondents any information in my power concerning the rarity and possible auction room value of any special pieces in this sale.

THE AMERICAN EXPRESS COMPANY issues, at nominal cost only, money orders for amounts under \$15., payable at any of their offices in the United States. Small amounts can be remitted to us in this way, in preference to sending country drafts or money in a letter without registry.

COIN SALES

A large number of sales have taken place during the past two months, not less than 17 American Catalogues being before us for review, and several important sales yet to take place before the hot summer months compel coin dealers to give their customers a few weeks of rest.

March 14 and 15. Postage Stamps, United States, Colonial, and Foreign Coins. 628 lots. Catalogue by Jos. B. Burleigh, Jr. Sold by Wm. Seemuller, Baltimore, Maryland. A neat catalogue, containing quite a number of well described and rare postage stamps.

March 20. American and Foreign coins, the property of Mr. Wm. P. Brown. 600 lots. Catalogue by Scott & Co., 41 st (?) sale. Sold by Geo. A. Leavitt & Co., Clinton Hall, N. Y.

When Mr. Brown, the well known coin and postage stamp dealer, was burned out in the Potter building in Park Row, he had, fortunately for him, a well made fire-proof safe, in which were kept his rarer coins and stamps. The safe fell through the burning floors into the cellar of the building, and its contents were recovered nearly if not quite uninjured. Desiring to embark in a new enterprise, Mr. Brown passed the remaining stock over to Mr. Walter Scott, and the coins and stamps were sold at auction; realizing, we understand a very fair amount to Mr. Brown. We are sorry to hear that he abides by his decision, and will not again enter the field as a coin and stamp dealer.

March 24. A small collection of valuable and rare Greek silver coins, Foreign and American silver and copper coins, medals, etc. 684 lots. Catalogue by H. P. Smith. Sold by Bangs & Co., New York.

The rare Greek coins in this sale were for the greater part of the importation of Messrs Feuardent & Co., the well known dealers in antique coins, gems, etc. The prices realized for these were in nearly every instance very high, that part of the sale being a decided success, while the balance also sold at excellent prices.

March 29. A valuable collection of American gold, silver, and copper coins and medals, the property of J. Colvin Randall, of Philadelphia. 694 lots. Catalogue by Geo. W. Cogan. Sold by Bangs & Co., New York.

This catalogue, especially in the now all-important feature of correct statements as to the actual condition of rare American coins offered, was compiled with great care. The attendance at the sale was very good; the bidding spirited, and many of the rarer early issues brought most excellent prices. We quote the following: 5 different varieties of Lady Godiva half-penny tokens, uncir., averaged 2.00 each; 1794 dollar, formerly in the Cabinet of U. S. Mint, 63.; 1995 dollar, fillet head, uncir., 17.; 1797 7 stars facing very fine, 6.60; 1839 dollar. 34.25; 1852 dollar, v. fine, 35.; '54. uncir. 10; '58, brilliant proof, now more frequently offered than formerly, 36.25; 1797 half-dollar, good, 23.50; 1815, uncir. 9.; 1836, reeded edge, uncir. 7.80; 1852, uncir. 9.25; 1796, quarter-dollar, very fine, 16.25; 1822, sharp and uncir., 14.25, another from a different die, same condition, 15.; 1796 dime, broken die, uncir. 13.75; 1800, very fine, 7.60; 1802, 7.50; 1822, uncir. 20.; 1846, brilliant proof, 15.50; 1794 half-dime, extremely fine, 7.; '95, sharp and uncir. 11.; 1803, very fine 6.90; 1794 cent, Maris 49, a

new variety, which fortunately for us we possess in the same condition, 25.; 1800, perfect date, 12.50; 1809, uncir. 15.75; 1824, uncir., red, 13.75; 1832, uncir. 7.25; 1796 half-cent, fine, 31.; a large number of eagles, half and quarter eagles of early dates brought high and increasing prices; a gold set 1879, obverse different from the more common type, 50 dollars, etc.

April 1. United States and Foreign silver and copper coins; a collection of crowns and double crowns of the 16th century, numismatic works, etc. 647 lots. Catalogue by Ed. Frossard; sold by Bangs & Co., New York. An edition of 50 copies, printed on thick paper, and with 2 fine heliotype plates was issued. A few copies are still on hand and for sale, neatly priced, at 60 cents per copy. Total proceeds of the sale, which was extremely successful, \$927.50.

April 4. Coins, Medals, etc. 400 lots. Sold by M. Thomas & Sons, Philadelphia. A broad sheet descriptive of the coins composing the unsold balance of Long's Philadelphia Museum Collection, a once noted place of resort, where among other curiosities a fine assortment of coins and medals were displayed on brass gold plated stands with black walnut resting pieces, 1180 of which were sold together with the coins.

April 6 and 7. American autograph letters, collection of Washington portraits, formed Mr. Theodore Staebelin, of Baltimore, United States and Foreign coins, Continental and Colonial paper money, etc., etc. 1325 lots. Catalogue by John W. Haseltine, 59th sale. Sold by Bangs & Co. A printed price list was issued by Mr. Haseltine, and is for sale by him at the usual price of 25 cents. We are glad to see that Mr. Haseltine has placed himself on record as regards the number of his sales, and are not surprised to see that he is at least ahead of all present competitors in the actual number

held. The numbering of catalogues, with the constantly increasing number of sales held, becomes an absolute necessity to those who want to keep files of the various series issued by firms and individuals.

April 12 and 13. United States and Foreign coins, medals, Confederate relics, postage stamps, etc., the collection of J. F. Dudley. 893 lots. Catalogue by Geo. W. Masamore, 12th sale. Sold by Wm. Seemuller, Baltimore, Md.

April 13 and 14. United States and Foreign coins, medals, proof sets, curiosities, etc. 1,253 lots. Catalogue by Charles Steigruval, 4th sale, and sold by himself at the Central Auction Rooms, Lancaster, Pa.

April 14. Collection of American coins, of H. B. Bradbury, and also a choice collection of war medals and decorations made by the late John R. Shannon, of Philadelphia. 721 lots. Catalogue by S. H. & H. Chapman. Sold by Bangs & Co., New York. The war and order medals sold generally at very high prices.

April 19, 20, 21. The numismatic collections of Frank Dietrich, of Harrisburgh, Penn., and of S. H. Morgan, of Louisville, Kentucky; also a collection of stone implements and relics. 1,900 lots. Catalogue by W. E. Woodward. Sold by Bangs & Co., New York.

April 27 and 28. American and Foreign Gold, Silver and Copper Coins; also a large collection of war envelopes, etc. 1251 lots. Catalogue by Geo. W. Cogan; sold by Bangs & Co., N. Y.

May 5. United States Silver Coins, the property of Mr. Wm. Cottier, of Buffalo, N. Y.; also a collection of rare American and Foreign coins and medals in gold, silver, and copper. 638 lots. Catalogue by Ed. Frossard, 21st sale; sold by Bangs & Co., N. Y. An edition of sixty copies, printed on thick paper, with two fine heliotype plates, was is-

sued at 50 cents per copy, priced 75c., of which a few copies are still for sale. Mr. Cottier in relinquishing the collecting of American silver does not abandon the field as a collector; on the contrary, he simply gives up one branch of numismatics that he may more fully extend his collection in another, in a word, he continues as a collector of the regular United States copper coinage, of which he has now a collection worthy to be ranked with his silver cabinet. Although several coins heretofore considered very rare sold at decreasing rates, and the very choice specimens of the more common dates sold low, this sale can yet be called one of the most successful held in New York during the present year. The attendance of buyers was large and the struggle for the acquisition of rare coins frequently spirited. We quote the following: Swedish copper plate money, daler 6.75; half, 5.10; 4 daler, 15.50; dollars, 1794 good, 44.; 1836 Gobrecht in the field, 50.20; 1838, rev. flying eagle without stars, 54.; 1839, 43.; 1851, br. pr., 48.75; 1852, do, 54.; 1854 barely cir. 10.; 1856 brilliant pr. 12.; 1857 do, 8.25; 1858 do, 53.; 1873 set of trade dollars, 22.75; 1878 Barber's rejected design, 14 20; 1878 Morgan's original design, 7.10; 1878 goloid metric dollar, 7.; half dollars, 1796, 16 stars, fine, 45; 1797 very good 44.75; 1801 very fine, 17.75; 1802 very fine, 22.75; 1815 very fine, 7.10; 1836 Gobrecht head, very fine, 5.20; 1838 head of liberty rev. flying eagle, pr. 7.; another with eagle grasping an olive branch and arrows, br. pr. 10.; another Liberty seated, rev. defiant eagle to left, excessively rare, only 12.50; quarter dollars, 1796, proof surface, uncir. was very cheap at 14.75; 1822 uncir. 7.; 1823 over '22, poor but genuine, 46.50; 1853 without arrows, 6.75; 1874, twenty cents, silver pattern piece, 17.25. The early dimes were not generally up to the standard of the collection, and consequently sold comparatively low, a half dime of 1802, date fine, otherwise

barely fair 39.; 1805. nearly fine, 11.50; 1846, proof surface, 8.25; cents, 1793, Lib. cap., undoubtedly the finest impression known, 181.; 1795, Jefferson head, 30.; 1798, brilliant golden color, 10; a Louis XIV fourth crown, 1670, struck for Canada, excessively rare, 120.; the gold coins brought the usual low prices; the Foreign double crowns, rare medals, etc., all sold at excellent figures. Total of sale \$2,156, an average of nearly 3.50 per lot

May 12. American and Foreign coins, the collection of John Acker. 550 lots. Catalogue by Scott & Co., 44 (?) sale. Sold by Leavitt & Co., Clinton Hall, N. Y. It has been remarked by a number of numismatists that since Mr. Scott lost the services of Mr. Prosky, who, whatever else may be said, is at least a well informed coin man, his catalogues have sunk to a very low level of excellence. The composition is poor, the statements crude and generally incorrect, there is no system in the arrangement, and the proof reading if done by anyone at all must be under charge of Scott himself or of his printer's devil.

May 18. Postage stamps, United States, Colonial and Foreign coins, etc. 344 lots. Catalogue by Joseph B. Burleigh, Jr. Sold by Wm. Seemuller, Baltimore, Maryland.

May 22 and 23. United States and Foreign coins, fractional currency, old almanacks, autographs, etc. 974 lots. Catalogue by Charles Steigerwalt, and sold by himself at the Central Auction Rooms, Lancaster, Pa.

May 24 and 25. Collection of U. S. cents, half-cents, etc., of William Riddle, of Lancaster, Pa., also coins, medals, curiosities, postage stamps, etc. 917 lots. Catalogue by Geo. W. Massamore. Sold by Wm. Seemuller, Baltimore.

Foreign Catalogues The Piot collection of Renaissance Medals, 283 pieces, ar-

ranged in 264 lots, and comprising examples by Pisano, Sperandio, Fiorentino and other celebrated artists; also fine early German medals, was sold by Christie, Manson and Wood, London, May 8 and 9. The catalogue is interesting and the "portable monuments of art," described, no doubt found appreciative buyers among the cultivated and scholarly medalists of England. A gentleman well versed in the subject pointed out several numbers in the catalogue, which, he thought, would fetch at least £20. a piece. Here, in sad contrast, the few Renaissance medals which have from time to time made their appearance in sales have generally passed, at nominal rates, into the hands of coin sellers, showing that the taste of our collectors in this line is as yet undeveloped.

Mr. Adolph Hess, of Frankfurt-on-Main, sends us parts 7 and 8 of coins and medals from the celebrated Montenuovo cabinet for sale by him at fixed prices.

COMING SALES.

MR. GEO. W. COGAN has a sale of extremely fine and interesting Foreign crowns, American medals in silver, U. S. coins, etc., the collection of Mr. Henry Lee, of Bridgeport, Conn., on the 31st inst.

MR. H. G. SAMPSON sells several fine collections of rare American silver and copper coins, fine and rare Colonial coins, ancient coins, etc., at Bangs & Co., on the 6th and 7th of June.

MR. H. P. SMITH will sell a collection of coins at Bangs & Co., June 16.

THE BUSHNELL SALE, catalogue by Chapman Bros., takes place at Bangs & Co., on the 20, 21, 22, 23 and 24 of June. Catalogues can be had from us at the publishers' prices, 50c. for the ordinary and \$5. for the edition with plates.

DR. W. E. WOODWARD'S 47th sale at Bangs & Co., June 28, 29 and 30.

ED. FROSSARD has reserved July 11 for his 23d sale. Invoices of coins are still in order for this sale.

MR. CHAS STEIGERWALT will sell the John C. Rohrer cabinet of American and Foreign coins at Lancaster, Pa., on or about June 15. Quoting his own words this sale is to be a roarer and no trash will be offered. Since writing these lines we have seen the catalogue. The collection is fine, important, and well described. Collectors cannot overlook this.

MR. JOHN W. HASELTINE will have a coin sale in New York; date as yet undetermined, probably in the first or second week in July.

THE BUSHNELL SALE.

The Collection of the late Charles I. Bushnell, quarto; 136 p.p. 3000 lots. Catalogue by S. H. & H. Chapman. Sale at Bangs & Co., New York, June 20 to 24.

It must be conceded that the appearance of this catalogue has been looked for with interest and curiosity by American collectors in general, and that the occasion of the final dispersion of this splendid cabinet is one of importance to those at present interested in numismatic pursuits, and will influence the immediate future of coin interests, either by exerting a depressing influence on the market, or by stimulating and augmenting a desire and taste for the formation of new coin and medal collections. Until the appearance of the catalogue the collection of Mr. Bushnell was in one sense a mysterious one; but few even among his most intimate friends knew exactly what he had, few had seen his entire cabinet, he bought secretly and generally through others and under an assumed name. But he was a devoted and earnest numismatist, possessing taste, judgment, a good education, and had ample means at his hands to gratify his taste for coins whenever money became an important factor in their acquisition. For these reasons it was generally supposed

at the time of his death that his collection was second to none in size and might possibly rival, if not surpass, the celebrated Mickley cabinet, in importance and value. But such is not the case, and however complete the Bushnell collection may be in Colonial, American medals and Store cards, it is for so large an American cabinet extremely weak and deficient in the regular mint series, especially of silver and in the pattern series of later issues. Mr. Bushnell was a collector during many years and must have had the best opportunities to purchase all the rarities of the silver coinage; yet quite a number, and the more important ones, are lacking, and not all of the dates represented are in such fine condition as collectors generally supposed they were. The reasons why Mr. Bushnell did not secure specimens of the 1804, '51 and '52 dollars, of the 1796 and '97 halves, of the '23 and '27 quarters, of several of the rare dimes and half dimes, not to speak of many dates and issues which formerly sold at very low prices, but are now highly prized, are given in the preface, "Mr. B. told us that he cared but little for the dates of the U. S. Mint silver issues," and may be good and valid, but the fact of their omission exists, and therefore the Mickley cabinet still remains the best, most complete, as well as the most valuable American collection ever offered for competition in this country, a monument to the genius of its maker, and its catalogue yet holds the first place in importance among the seven hundred and odd issued to the present time. As regards the arrangement and composition of the catalogue we remark with pleasure that the carelessness in composition, indifferent grammar, and tautology, found in the former combined productions of Messrs. Chapman, have to a certain extent been avoided in this. A good story must be well told, or it loses its charm, and it would have been a pity to see such adjectives as "uncirculated, bold and very sharp impression," or "unique, exceedingly rare, and only specimen known," thrown in unending and tiresome repetitions throughout the catalogue. It looks indeed as if a person of mature judgment, sound learning, and accustomed to utter good English,

had drawn the Messrs. Chapman from the inextricable tangles into which they have been wont to fall when endeavoring to make a point. (See the description of the good Samaritan shilling, No. 145, which any one will concede is original in construction). If such be the case his name should have been mentioned as a collaborator, but it is quite as probable that they have simply followed the recognized authorities without referring to their lists and works, and this is the most unpleasing peculiarity of the catalogue, and one that cannot be overlooked. Except where it could not be avoided, the names of every American authority on coins and medals have carefully been excluded. Statements founded on the expressed and published opinions of others are uttered as if no one had ever before given the subject a thought. See for instance the remarks under No. 247 about the Virginia half pence. Who discovered these varieties of half-pence? And who has repeatedly offered them for sale, singly and in sets, was it J. W. Haseltine? and would not the mention of his name have been a slight tribute of respect to him who first led the Chapmans into numismatic by-ways? This feature may be thought politic, but would it not have been more generous and less selfish to have granted something to others? The Revolutionary Peace Medals for instance, are generally catalogued according to Mr. Appleton's list, who also wrote something worth knowing about Washington medals; the names of Woodward and others are likewise studiously omitted when references to their catalogues are made; this of course is more than selfish, it is simply uncourteous; Messrs. Chapman apparently prefer to leave the collectors in the dark rather than to commit themselves so far as to mention a single name. We now pass to a consideration of the many good things offered in this sale, simply warning collectors of the fact that the ascribed rarity and possible auction-room value of many of the coins as stated in appended remarks are frequently to be taken *cum grano salis*, only instancing two cases in point. Again we refer our readers to No. 247. The statement there made is as follows: "One (Virginia shilling) in sale March 20, 1865, brought \$190, AND THIS PIECE IS WORTH THAT AMOUNT. Now,

as a matter of fact, one of these shillings, not long ago, went the round of collectors at \$110, and would gladly have been sold at a good profit for \$100; it was finally shipped to England, and as far as known is still unsold, and certainly not 3 but 10 or 12 of these, or more, are at present known. No. 1,289 the Season Medals. In speaking of the value of these, reference is made to McCoy and Lightbody's sales, 1864 and '65, when a similar set sold first at \$900, then at \$800. The compilers ignore the fact that these medals have since then sold at much less. At Mr. Scott's sale, held in New York, March 13th, 1882, two of these IN SILVER sold at \$25.50 a piece, Henry Chapman, Jr., being present, and not bidding higher on the pieces, which is rather extraordinary, if the medals are of such high value.

Nos. 140-180. A splendid collection of the New England and Massachusetts coinages. Collectors will here find a large number of fine specimens for their cabinets.

Nos. 181-184. The Lord Baltimore coinage, contains the unique copper penny, whose value cannot be overestimated.

No. 185. Carolina elephant penny, has lately become extremely rare on account of the great demand for this truly representative coin.

Nos. 189-193. The Highley or Granby, Connecticut coppers. Very few of these have during the last decade been offered. They are excessively rare in any condition.

Nos. 194-225. The Rosa Americana series, very interesting; many of the varieties are rare, as for instance those of 1724. For a complete elucidation of the descriptions see Crosby's work.

Nos. 256-290. French and Indian war medals. Many rarities, some otherwise, are here described. Collectors should draw a strong line of distinction between the original and restrike medals. The latter are very often offered, the former are generally rare.

Nos. 291-316. Revolutionary Peace medals. The greater part of these medals are scarce; few if any are restrike at the present time, all are extremely interesting and should be represented in general American as well as purely medallist collections.

Nos. 328, &c. The Tristram Coffin Medal is very rare, the Rev. Geo. Whitfield series

is complete and interesting, as well as rare. 300 francs was lately asked us abroad for a duplicate of 332; from 337 to 362 are several medallic rarities that have seldom passed under the auctioneer's hammer.

534-537. Pitt medals; generally in great demand, both here and abroad, chiefly on account of their political significance.

576-591. Admiral Vernon Medals. A few are described by Appleton's list, the balance as "not in Appleton." Have the compilers seen Appleton's addendas?

712-730. The Fugio series; contains several rarities, as Nos. 713, 715, and 726; the latter especially, is extremely rare and desirable.

740-767. The rather scant series of sturdy Vermont are quite fully represented by specimens as good as found,

768-800. Massachusetts cents and half-cents. A very complete collection; quite a number very rare; 778 will command a lively competition.

801-877. Connecticut cents. The fact that these are very seldom found fine is here fully illustrated; Mr. Bushnell must have had the very best opportunities to secure fine specimens, and comparatively few are here offered.

878-885. The Immune Columbia in silver, the Immunis Columbia, and Confederatio are all excessively rare. 882 and 885 will probably command the highest prices.

886-890. Extremely rare New York cents; all highly desirable.

892 The Brashee doubloon, gold. One of the gems of the collection and will undoubtedly bring a high price.

920 New Jersey cent. Unique variety with date under the plough beam, in the field. The remarks here addressed to Mr. Crosby, considering the amount of assistance his work gave Messrs. Chapman, are more forcible than polite. How could Crosby describe a coin correctly if its owner was too——well, say secretive to show it!

997-1001. Complete series of the Chalmers Annapolis coinage. All very desirable, and 997 undoubtedly unique.

1761-1766. Early pattern coins of the United States Mint, designed and struck in 1792, each a gem and all of high rarity, especially 1763, '64 and '66.

2169-2232. Hard Times Token are much in demand now; some are rare. 2,169, silver 1-4 dollar is not described by Levick.

2603-2811. In this the last day of the sale will be offered a splendid collection of cents and half cents, not by any means complete, but embracing many specimen remarkable for their beauty and rarity.

In conclusion it must be stated that while 50 cents is only a fair price for this large and handsomely printed catalogue, \$5 is too much by half for the illustrated one. There is but one opinion among collectors on this point. Phototype plates are obtained at very low prices; they are not as costly, handsome, or perfect as the best specimens of the heliotype, and were there 20 instead of 12 \$5 would still be a preposterous price for a coin sale catalogue. The former ridiculous pretensions of the compilers to the effect that the catalogue would form a sequel to Crosby's masterly work "The Early Coins of America," also fall to the ground. There are in fact very few Colonial coins described not found in Crosby, and as no new light is shed on his work, and the borrowed information, conveyed with painful labor, belongs to the descriptive rather than the historical, it can neither supplant nor explain Crosby, but rather needs the explanations of the latter to make itself intelligible.

One feature for which Messrs. Chapman deserve praise is the care they appear to have exercised in pointing out all coins which our numismatic authorities have since the Mickley sale discovered to be spurious; in all such cases they boldly announce the fact, no matter what the cost may have been to Mr. Bushnell. In questions of authenticity therefore, we grant them the merit of having been painstaking, intelligent and honest. We also believe that their statements of the actual condition or degree of preservation of the coins are based on good judgment and can be relied upon as not overdrawn or incorrect. These two points are of paramount importance in the disposition of coin collections, and since our collectors will always prefer a good coin ungrammatically described to a poor one enshrined in the flowery language of rhetoric, the success of the sale, considering the splendid elements of the Bushnell cabinet, is undoubtedly assured.